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is, I know, a law unto itself. But there can be no reason why medical habits of clear and logical thought should not go hand in hand with habits of clear and logical expression, not in Americanized or Teutonized English, but in the "King's English," which is still, I think, the standard to which most of us strive to attain.

But it is ungracious to point out these few flaws in a work that is in itself so valuable and so well worth reading more than once. After all, if one dares to criticize in any way, it is only because one expects so much of Dr. Jacoby; because flaws, omissions and mistakes show up more clearly in his work than they would in the work of a lesser craftsman. It is Dr. Jacoby's own fault, if he is so highly esteemed and so universally beloved, that we set for him a standard, of which he himself sometimes falls short.

Baltimore.

JOHN R. OLIVER.

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"PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION." By *Wilder and Wentworth*. Richard G. Badger, The Gorham Press, Boston, 1918. Pp. 373. \$5.00.

There is now and then a book printed which at once takes its permanent place in literature; this book on Personal Identification is such a book. It is the work mainly of Dr. Harris Hawthorne Wilder, Professor of Zoology in Smith College, who for many years has been able to get the charming Smith girls intensely interested in worms, bones, skulls, mice and guinea pigs. This is certainly a measure of his power. This book has been invested with the same interest, although the subject itself is a most interesting one.

The act of identifying things is a universal phase of education of every human being. The faculty is developed from earliest youth, but with most of us it remains to the end an empirical and more or less shallow study, possible sources of error are not considered, and the underlying principles of the subject receive little attention. This book treats the subject of personal identification from the standpoint of the scientist, who first develops the principles applying to the question and then applies the principles to the problem in hand.

Professor Wilder has given long and careful study to the question of identifying human beings by an examination of impressions made from the sole of the foot. This is almost, if not quite, new territory which has been most carefully and laboriously explored; he has made foot prints across a new field. From the date of the publication of this book, "Foot Prints" as a means of identification will have a new significance. Interesting studies in identification also extend into the field of Habits, Gait, Accomplishments, Voice, Handwriting, Preferences, Finger Prints, and other qualities, attributes characteristics and indicia, by which the human family may be described and identified. Professor Wilder even goes into the question of the identification of "Fragmentary, Decomposed and Dried Remains" and the identification of bones and teeth, and he gives a chapter to the identification of the skull and the physical restoration of the face upon the bones.

The book discusses from a scientific standpoint, and in the most thorough manner, the identification of finger prints and the various

means of illustration, as well as the whole history of the subject. This book is a distinct contribution to this most important question which is discussed, not only from the standpoint of the practical application of the subject, but the question is considered throughout by a careful, trained, scientific observer who does not forget at any point to bring out the basic principles underlying the subject. In this particular the book is in violent contrast with some other books on the same subject, prepared by those who have studied the subject only in an empirical way and who are totally disqualified to discuss the scientific principles on which the theory of identification of any kind is based.

The work contains 150 most interesting and helpful illustrations; it is dedicated to Sir Edward Richard Henry, of Scotland Yard, London, whose portrait also appears. The frontispiece of the book is a most fascinating foot print (perhaps of a Smith College girl!) showing in one impression the thousands of identifying characteristics in a "Wilder Foot Print."

New York City.

ALBERT S. OSBORN.

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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE PROBATION COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1917. Albany. Pp. 603.

The Report is a well edited volume of 600 pages, the work of Charles L. Chute, Secretary of the Commission, Albany, N. Y. Being written while this country was at war, stress is laid on the part probation officers played in the preventive and protective service to which the war inspired all of us. Probation work was not let down, but was rather stimulated by the war activities.

The Report indicates the great value of a state probation commission, which can take stock of present work done both at home and in other states, and which can standardize, in a great measure, the work throughout the state, stressing needs and shortcomings, offering counsel and assistance to new officers, and offering to all officers light on ever changing problems.

The report of the work of the commission, which covers the first 60 pages, is graphically illustrated by charts, showing from what courts probationers have come, the increase in the use of probation, the increase in the number of salaried probation officers, the charges on which persons put on probation were arraigned and the apparent results of probation. The report points out the decrease in the prison population of New York State, and the deteriorating quality, both mentally and morally of those committed; indicating that the probation system is weeding out the normal and reclaimable type of offender, and is saving him from the stigma of imprisonment.

In addition to the usual report of the work of the commission, the volume contains the report of a committee appointed by the commission to study methods of supervising probationers. The report of this committee is a real contribution to the literature of the subject and is well worth the study of all who are engaged in probation work. This report states the general problem and then gives an analysis of